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Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal

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YMCA LANGUAGE COURSES SEEN KEYS TO CITIZENSHIP

International Branch of the Montreal YMCA will this week honor some 250 adults for having taken steps to span one of the major obstacles to first-class citizenship in Canada.

Their achievement--learning English or French--will be cited this Wednesday and Thursday, at 8:00 p.m., at language classes graduation exercises in the branch.

Most of those to be honored are recent immigrants to Canada and family breadwinners. Their language certificates represent hours of classwork and studying, put in after days of hard labor or stints on the night shift.

For many, the job of learning was further complicated by gaps in their educational background. Few of them had even completed elementary school in their native land.

Motivated by the desire to earn a better living, they were eager to learn as much, and as quickly, as possible. While studying, they also acquired a better understanding of their adopted homeland, its value systems, and their rights and responsibilities.

Encouraged by their progress to date, many representatives of this group have already enrolled for further training in International YMCA's language program. Courses starting November 18 are expected to attract some 400 persons.

International YMCA now offers seven levels of classes in English and four in French. Teaching methods and the curriculum have been updated, and a comprehensive system of oral testing developed to ensure students are being taught at the appropriate level.

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